



CrimeWatch

Holiday Edition

December 2000

"EXCELLENCE IN PROTECTION"

Seasons
Greetings from
Federal
Protective **S**ervice.



GRINCH WATCH

**DON'T LET THE
GRINCH STEAL
YOUR
CHRISTMAS**

Unfortunately the holidays are a time when the "bad guys" increase their activity and their success.



FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

FPS

OKLAHOMA CITY - 1995

"FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS"

THIS ISSUE

Holiday Season Security Tips
Travel Tips & Much More
Fire Safety
Vacation Tips
Take a Holiday Inventory
If a Stranger Comes to the Door
Quotes on Holidays.
Road Rage
Martha Stewart
Help Desk



Their success is increased because the pressures of the holiday make us less aware of our surroundings and less suspicious.

Here are a few tips to help prevent the "Grinch" from stealing your holiday.

WHEN SHOPPING



Buddy up - shop with a friend.
Park in a well-lighted area.

Be aware of your surroundings and the folks around you.

Protect your purse - try not to carry more cash and credit cards than you need.



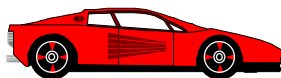
Keep your eye on your credit card when you present it for payment.

When you go to your car have one hand free and your keys ready.

If possible place packages out of sight: In the trunk is best.

If you are concerned or have high value purchases ask mall security for an escort to your car.

WHEN DRIVING



Keep all your doors locked and windows up.

Check the area out before you park.

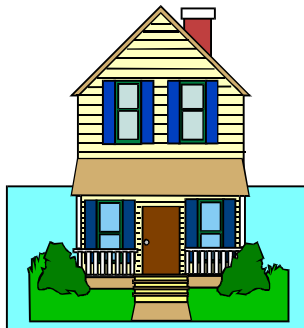
Park in well lighted areas.

Remove your keys, lock your door.

If you are followed, drive to a police station, fire station or busy quick stop type market.

Don't pull over if you are signaled to stop by a stranger.

AT HOME



Lock doors and windows. When you leave and when you go to bed.

Don't leave boxes for expensive purchases in public view.

Arrange a safe haven for your children.

Let a neighbor know when you are on holiday.



BE OBSERVANT:

Watch for strangers parked on your street in the mornings.
Be aware of unusual "door to door" canvassers.

This holiday season don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportunity for crime.



Homes jam-packed with glittering gifts. Stores, malls and downtown streets teeming with unsuspecting shoppers. People rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. It's enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy.





Here are some more tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season.

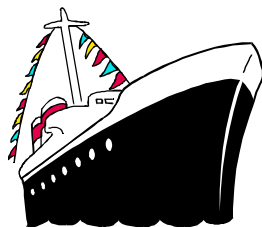
IF YOU'RE OUT FOR THE EVENING

Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home.

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.

Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

IF YOU'RE TRAVELING



Plan ahead. If you're traveling by car, get maps and plan your route. Have the car checked before you leave.

Leave copies of the numbers of your passport, driver's license, credit cards, and traveler's checks with a close friend or relative in case you need to replace these papers.



Put lights and a radio on timers to create the illusion that someone is at home while you're away. Leave shades, blinds, and curtains in normal positions. Stop mail and deliveries or ask a neighbor to take them in.

Ask a neighbor to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.

Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.



MORE SAFE SHOPPING TIPS



Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.

Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk (do this away from where you're parked).

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.

Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an

inside coat or front pant's pocket.

Shopping with kids?
Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.



IF A STRANGER COMES TO THE DOOR, BEWARE

Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. And it's not uncommon for people to try and take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know instead.

Last but not least, don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Give yourself an extra 15 minutes to get to your destination and make time to get together with family, friends, and neighbors. Think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortunate or lonely.



Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody--except the criminals.



TAKE A HOLIDAY INVENTORY

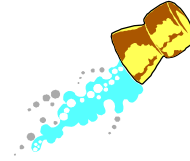


The holidays are a good time to update - or create - your home inventory. Take photos, engrave your items or make videos, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file. Make sure things like TV's, VCR's, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment, and power tools are on the list. Remember to check it twice!



DRUNK DRIVERS *are not survivors!*

STAY ALIVE,



**PLEASE DON'T
DRINK AND DRIVE.**



FIRE SAFETY



Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and New Year's also spell out: decorative lights, candles and parties where people drink and smoke are all part of the holiday season.



SO... TAKE HEED!

- * Avoid choosing costumes, toys or nightwear made of highly flammable materials.
- * Make changing batteries in your smoke detectors part of your Thanksgiving ritual.
- * Keep a fire extinguisher by your Christmas tree.
- * Have your chimney cleaned for Santa's arrival.



- * Do not overload electrical outlets.
- * Ensure use of proper fuel for liquid-fuel heaters.



- * Inspect tree light cords and discard any frayed, cracked, loose or damaged cords.
- * Don't use electric lights on metal Christmas trees.
- * Keep a gallon of water by the tree for easy access.
- * Ensure electric toys, lights, and decorations bear the sign of an independent testing laboratory.

Smell Smoke?
Remember... Crawl

Low!



Vacation Tips



Ideally, long before vacation time arrives, set up a Neighborhood Watch, and/or check with your local police agency to see if they provide free home security inspections. Alarm systems can be useful, but vigilant neighbors and a well secured home provide the best defense.

Do not leave an extra key beneath the mat, over the doorframe, or under a rock. An extra key can be left with trusted friends. Make a note of their names and phone numbers.

Have you arranged for a housesitter, friend, neighbor or Neighborhood Watch member to watch your home while you're away? They can help by parking a car in your driveway, turning lights or appliances on at different times of day, or in other ways giving your home an occupied look. In addition, they can be on the lookout for suspicious visitors. Do they know how to reach

you or a responsible party, while you're on vacation, or where to send a search party if you don't make it back on time?

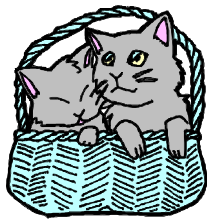
Don't advertise vacation plans beyond those who need to know.

Have you arranged for someone to pick up mail, papers, unsolicited advertisements, and/or have you arranged for mail/newspaper delivery to be suspended?

Have you turned off and/or unplugged unnecessary electrical appliances?

Have you attached a timer to lights, or the radio, to simulate occupancy? Choose talk shows instead of music, to provide human voices.

Have you arranged for someone to rake the leaves, shovel the snow, mow the lawn and care for the **pets**?



while you are gone?



Convert cash to traveler's checks.

Driving? Check the oil, gas, headlights, taillights, brake lights, brake fluid, radiator water level and tire inflation before leaving home.

Turn your telephone ringer off or down low; when it rings loud and long it's an advertisement that nobody's home. Another option would be to use call forwarding. Answering machines are fine, but don't leave specific information about your absence. "We can't come to the phone right now, please leave a message" is safer.

Securely lock all the windows and doors in your home.

If you return home to find you've been burglarized, don't enter your home. Go to a neighbor's home and call 9-1-1 or your local police non-emergency number.



"QUOTES" ON THE HOLIDAYS:

Who first invented work, and bound the free and holiday-rejoicing spirit down? __Lamb.

If all the year were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as to work; but when they seldom come, the wished for come. __Shakespeare.

The holiest of all holidays are those kept by ourselves in silence and apart, the secret anniversaries of the heart, when the full tide of feelings overflows. __Longfellow.

Under the leaves, amid the grass, lazily the day shall pass, yet not be wasted. From my drowsy ease I borrow health and strength to bear my boat through the great life ocean. __Mackay.

**Quotes taken from the
Dictionary of Thoughts, A
Cyclopedia of Laconic
Quotations from the best
authors of the world, both
ancient and modern.**

__Copyright 1904



ROAD RAGE

People are losing their lives on the highway every day because of "road rage." A majority of drivers get angry at slow drivers. Violent incidents on the roads recorded by police have increased 51% over five years.

Do not allow someone to draw you into a test of wills on the highway. If someone tailgates you, pull into the slow lane and let them pass. Don't tailgate others or cut them off in traffic.

Do not drive in the passing lane.

Don't take traffic problems personally. Avoid eye contact with an aggressive driver and don't make obscene gestures either. Use your horn sparingly, as a warning, not an outburst.



FPS NEEDS YOUR HELP



FPS WEBSITE

<http://www.gsa.gov/pbs/fps/fps.htm>



The PBS Federal Protective Service is responsible for providing security in Federal buildings and for protecting you while you are at work. However, you and all other Federal employees are an important part of keeping Federal buildings safe and secure. The Federal Protective Service surveys buildings to assess security risks, station guards at entrances, patrols Federal property, meets with building tenants, and installs security equipment.



You can help because in your day to day activities, you become accustomed to what is "right" or familiar. If you notice something that doesn't seem to be normal, notify the Federal Protective Service. If you see a suspicious act or persons, notify FPS.

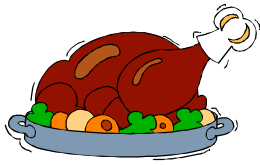


Possible Y2K Problem Dates

- **December 31, 2000:**
366th day of the year
- **January 1, 2001:** **first day of the 21st century**



Thanksgiving Dinner



Martha Stewart will not be dining with us this Thanksgiving. I'm telling you in advance, so don't act surprised. Since Ms. Stewart won't be coming, I've made a few small changes. Our sidewalk will not be lined with home made, paper bag luminaries. After a trial run, it was decided that no matter how cleverly done, rows of flaming lunch sacks do not have the desired welcoming effect.

The dining table will not be covered with expensive linens, fancy china or crystal goblets. If possible, we will use dishes that match and everyone will get a fork. Since this IS Thanksgiving, we will refrain from using the plastic Peter Rabbit plate and the Santa napkins from last Christmas.

Our centerpiece will not be the tower of fresh fruit and flowers that I promised. Instead we will be displaying a hedgehog-like decoration hand-crafted from the finest construction

paper. The artist assures me it is a turkey.

We will be dining fashionably late. The children will entertain you while you wait. I'm sure they will be happy to share every choice comment I have made regarding Thanksgiving, pilgrims and the turkey hotline. Please remember that most of these comments were made at 5:00 AM upon discovering that the turkey was still hard enough to cut diamonds. As accompaniment to the children's recital, I will play a recording of tribal drumming. If the children should mention that I don't own a recording of tribal drumming, or that tribal drumming sounds suspiciously like a frozen turkey in a clothes dryer, ignore them. They are lying.

We toyed with the idea of ringing a dainty silver bell to announce the start of our feast. In the end, we chose to keep our traditional method. We've also decided against a formal seating arrangement. When the smoke alarm sounds, please gather around the table and sit where you like. In the spirit of harmony, we will ask the children to sit at a separate table in a separate room

next door. Now I know you have all seen pictures of one person carving a turkey in front of a crowd of appreciative onlookers. This will not be happening at our dinner. For safety reasons, the turkey will be carved in a private ceremony. I stress "private" meaning: Do not, under any circumstances, enter the kitchen to laugh at me. Do not send small, unsuspecting children to check on my progress. I have an electric knife. The turkey is unarmed. It stands to reason that I will eventually win. When I do, we will eat.

Before I forget, there is one last change. Instead of offering a choice between 12 different scrumptious desserts, we will be serving the traditional pumpkin pie, garnished with whipped cream and small fingerprints. You will still have a choice: take it or leave it.

Martha Stewart will not be dining with us this Thanksgiving. She probably won't come next year either. I am thankful.

Source: "Today's Woman" magazine, Barbara A Tyler. THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE IS 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) AND THE TDD NUMBER FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED IS 1-800-787-3224. "HELP BUILD

**AWARENESS AND PREVENT
VIOLENCE.”**



THE WESTERN WASHINGTON TEAM

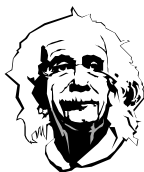


**SERVING WESTERN
WASHINGTON**

**REPORT ALL
SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITIES TO THE
FEDERAL
PROTECTIVE
SERVICE**



**WE’LL DO
MORE THAN
JUST LEND AN
EAR
HELP DESK**



**The following Federal
Protective Service
employees are available
to help you.**

Chief, Protection Operations Northern District

- Karen Gaston (253) 931-7838
**PSS Leader/Facilitator
Northern District**

- Jim Carnegie (253) 931-7257

Physical Security Specialists



- Smokey Forster (206) 220-6636
- Fredaline Healy (253) 593-6749
- Darryl Rabb (253) 931-7803
- Terry Muller (253) 931-7299
- Dave White (253) 931-7870

Criminal Investigator



- Mike Walley (206) 220-6633
Electronic Equipment Specialist



- Bob Griffin (206) 220-5087

Federal Police Officers



(206) 764-6725/6726

- Major. Don Laughlin
- Sgt. John Haverly
- Sgt. Odell Mefford
- Officer Ed McNamara
- Officer Rick Day
- Officer Tim Young
- Officer Larry McConnell
- Officer Rich Reiley

REGIONAL CONTROL CENTER

(253) 804-4777 - 24 hours

If you have a problem with non-security related items we can direct you to the appropriate GSA employee.

**Federal Protective Service
Federal Office Building
909 1st Ave., Room B-98/99
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 220-6636/6620/6621**

**Federal Protective Service
Federal Center South
Building 1202
4775 E. Margenal Way S.
Seattle, WA
(206) 764-6725/6726**